

PLAIN TALKS

AUGUST
1980



MAIL BOX

THE COVER

Carl Rabalais is a repeat winner in the Plain Talks' cover picture contest.

The draftsman shot his second winning photo earlier this summer when linemen were repairing distribution poles knocked down in a car accident in downtown Beaumont.

He says he used his Nikon to capture the silhouetted shot.

The Honorable Jack Brooks
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman:

It must certainly come to your attention that the states of Wyoming and Montana have very high severance taxes (17 percent and 30 percent respectively, I believe), and Wyoming may consider an increase next January. Also, those two states have the coal that many electric utilities all over the country will have to buy, transport and burn to replace oil and gas which they have been burning.

The burden of these high severance taxes must, of course, ultimately fall on the utilities' customers—and it is a substantial burden! (My wife and I are among the many millions of such utility customers.)

I think it would be a good thing if Congress would limit, by law, such a severance tax to 12 percent, say—which I believe is the highest of any existing state severance tax except Wyoming and Montana.

There was a good article about this in the June issue of Plain Talks.

Yours sincerely,
Harold E. Mortimer
Beaumont, Texas

Editor's note: Mortimer is a former GSU vice president and assistant to the chairman of the board.

Bill Richard
Gulf States Utilities
Lake Charles, Louisiana

Sir:

I take this opportunity to highly commend Mr. Travis Fox of your company. Late the afternoon of July 4th, our electric power "went off" and Gulf States in Lake Charles was called.

Our home is located on the Hackberry highway approximately five miles south of I-10, and within a very short time Mr. Fox was there. He promptly located and repaired the problem. His attitude was cheerful, his manner courteous and his work efficient.

Mr. Fox is the type of employee who reflects highest credit upon your company and the company should be pleased to have such people employed.

Thanks again!

Respectfully yours.
Dr. G.M. Newton
Alexandria, Louisiana

Elmer Sabrsula
Employment Manager
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Sabrsula:

We wish to thank you for giving us the opportunity to show off our River Bend Nuclear Power Station construction site in St. Francisville, Louisiana.

Mr. J.R. Dunkelberg, assistant superintendent of construction, acting as tour guide, indicated that Messrs. Drodgy, Nesbit, Westbrook and Gregory were indeed exemplary guests.

If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,
J.E. Wimberley
Superintendent-Site
Construction

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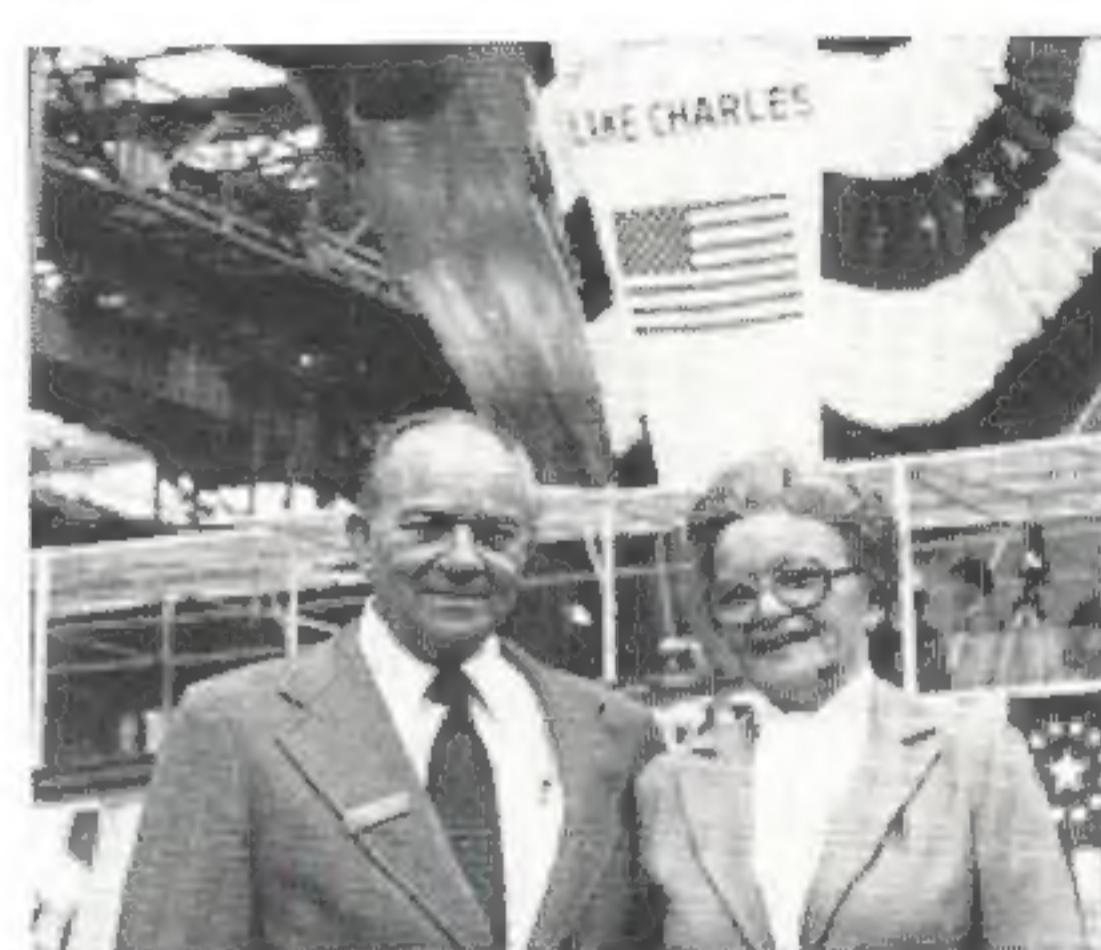
As gas prices have risen, Gulf States employees have risen to the occasion by resorting to carpools, buses, bicycles, motorcycles, mo-peds and even walking to work.



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NEWS BRIEFS

William Cahill named senior vice president for River Bend

A veteran utility executive who has been responsible for building three nuclear power plants was recently named to direct construction of the River Bend No. 1 nuclear unit in St. Francisville.

William J. Cahill Jr. was elected senior vice president for construction and project management in the River Bend Nuclear Group by the board of directors. The appointment was effective August 1.

Cahill has offices at the plant site and reports to Larry L. Humphreys, executive vice president of the River Bend group. He came to GSU after 30 years with New York's Consolidated Edison, most recently as vice president in charge of nuclear licensing, quality assurance, reliability and research and development.

Humphreys said the River Bend management team is now complete with the selection of Cahill. "Ever since the nuclear group was separated from other corporate activities at the beginning of this year, we have been looking for someone with Bill Cahill's credentials and background," Humphreys said. "We believe his expertise and experience will help us build the safest and most efficient plant possible."

Cahill joined Con Ed in 1949 after graduating from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. From 1954 until 1956 he was on loan to Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in Schenectady, New York, and helped design nuclear power plants for the Seawolf and Triton submarines.

In 1957, Cahill helped design a research reactor in Belgium and was involved in project management for a nuclear reactor proposed in Alaska.

During the late 1950s and 1960s, Cahill held a variety of engineering and executive positions with Con Ed, primarily in the nuclear field. He was elected a vice president in August, 1969, and assumed responsibility for 700 civil, general and mechanical engineering employees.

In August, 1971, Cahill was given the task of directing the design licensing, construction and operation of three Con Ed nuclear units, Indian Point 1, 2 and 3.

He held that position until May, 1975, when he was put in charge of nuclear plant licensing, quality assurance, research and development and computer applications engineering. He directed Con Ed's review of safety procedures and operations at its Indian Point 2 nuclear unit after the Three Mile Island accident.

Lake Charles Division uses sophisticated clearing machine

A sophisticated right-of-way clearing machine is being used in the Lake Charles Division by the Transmission and Distribution Department, reports Edith Patterson, Plain Talks correspondent.

According to Ms. Patterson, the machine is equipped with cutter blades that can cut within four to six inches of the ground and leave an eight-foot swath.

On level terrain, the machine has cleared up to 300 feet of medium brush in 5½ hours and 25 spans of medium and heavy brush in 11 hours. The machine mulches most brush and chips larger timber. Although it can handle up to an eight-inch-diameter hardwood tree, the equipment does not cause soil erosion.

Ms. Patterson said the clearing machine also has a fence row attachment that cuts a path above a fence.

Nation's utilities set all-time peak

The nation's electric utilities established an all-time peak for electric generation for the week ending July 19th, eclipsing the previous high set last August by more than three billion kilowatt-hours, the Edison Electric Institute announced last month.

The record output for that week last month was 52,635 million kilowatthours, up from the previous record of 49,516 million kilowatthours set the week ending August 11, 1979. The week's output represents an increase of more than 10 percent compared to the corresponding week in 1979.

Electric generation during the week was up substantially in four areas of the country over the previous year and down in only two. Experiencing major increases in electric use were the West Central, South Central, Southeast and Central Industrial regions.

Several utilities in the South Central region (up 21.1 percent over the corresponding week in 1979) set all-time peak marks, among them Gulf States, Public Service Co. of Oklahoma and New Orleans Public Service Co.

Several Texas utilities reported demand at near-record highs, but all-time peaks were set in late June or early July throughout most of the state.

GSUers cope with high gasoline prices by pedaling, pooling or puffing to work



These three Beaumont employees are among several Gulf Staters driving to work on two-wheelers. They are (from left) Steve Gomez on his motorcycle, Richard T. "Skippy" Green on his mo-ped, and Franklin H. "Butch" Suit on his motorcycle.

The gasoline lines of the summer of 1979 may have dimmed in some people's memories, but Gulf Staters have found it hard to forget the lingering high fuel prices.

Many GSU employees have refused to let the high price of gasoline take too much of their paychecks. Instead, they have demonstrated willingness to forfeit some luxuries in exchange for a lower gasoline bill by opting for carpools, smaller vehicles, motorcycles, mo-peds, scooters, city transit systems and, in at least a few cases, by walking or riding a bicycle to work.

Carpooling and the use of motorcycles appear to be about the most popular solutions to high fuel costs. At Lewis Creek Station, for instance, Plain Talks Correspondent D. W. Rutherford discovered that at least 13 employees drive motorcycles to work, including himself.

According to Rutherford, most of the motorcyclists cite extreme reductions in gasoline expenses once they switched to the two-wheelers.

"Most of the guys say they were paying up to \$30 a week on gas. Now they can go back and forth to work and around town on a Saturday night for around \$5," Rutherford explains.

Bobby Wooderson, an operator at Lewis Creek, drives a Harley-Davidson that he has dubbed "Thunder." He jokingly suggests, "If you ain't riding a Harley, you ought to be walking."

In addition to Wooderson and Rutherford, others at the Western Division power plant who ride motorcycles are Larry Madden, Tim Yarbrough, Tom Gilbert, Blaine Page, Martin McDaniel, Bobby Clay, Wallace Dodd, John Dix, Pete Rucker, Billy Okervall and Butch Fowler.

Plain Talks' correspondents in the Baton Rouge, Beaumont, Lake Charles and Port Arthur divisions report that plenty of employees have resorted to carpooling, too, although a number had carpooled for several months or years before the summer of 1979.

According to Rose Reeves of Port Arthur, Sue Simon and Glenda Pruett, both of whom are customer contract clerks in the Port Arthur Division accounting office, have carpooled for quite a while. Recently, they have been joined by Linda Breaux, clerk, and Penny Bolyard, customer contact clerk.

Mrs. Reeves says the foursome insists they enjoy "having another person to keep you company" on the way to work.

In Port Arthur, those who ride motorcycles to work include Tom Clark, supervisor-consumer ser-

vices; George Merwin, garage mechanic-2nd class; Sidney Bob, T&D helper; and Craig Bobb, T&D helper.

Some Port Arthur employees have also bought smaller cars to combat the gasoline price crunch. They include Don Parker, supervisor-credit and collections; Ronnie Carlin, superintendent-division accounting; Rhonda LeLeux, clerk-accounting; Jay TeSelle, industrial engineer-consumer services; Dan Puckett, consumer services representative; Patti Rodriguez, T&D clerk; and Clay Sport, lineman 3rd class.

The Port Arthur Division also boasts an employee who has walked back and forth to work for the past 25 years—Leonard Gaspard, section head-T&D engineering.



Gaspard, Port Arthur: Has walked to work for the past 25 years.

While he lives only a quarter of a mile from work, Gaspard told Mrs. Reeves that his walk nevertheless benefits his health and his pocketbook—"not to mention the fact that it has kept me good-looking and young."

At least one Beaumont employee also occasionally walks to work, although he notes that he walks the two miles from his house to work, then back, more for health reasons than economics.

Richard James, supervisor-payroll administration, notes he limits his four-mile round trip jaunt to downtown Beaumont to the summer months, especially those days when the mornings are not too hot. During the winter months, he must drop his children off at school.

Even though James did not begin walking to save money, he may offer a convincing argument

for those who may be considering walking. "It makes me feel good to walk," he says.

Another Beaumonter with an outstanding energy-conservation



Bobby Wooderson gets ready to head for home after another day at Lewis Creek Station.

record is Edward R. "Ike" Eichelberger, results coordinator-system production, who has taken a city bus to work since about 1973.

"Until last year's gas lines, I used to be the only Gulf Stater on



Eichelberger, Beaumont: Used to be the only GSUer on the bus until the summer, 1979, gas lines.

the bus," he notes. Now he reports that city buses are filled with downtown Beaumont employees, including George Cannon, also of system production.

Eichelberger reveals that he owns a green Dodge Charger like the one featured on the television show "The Dukes of Hazzard" and a van. Together the two vehicles are driven about 10,000 miles a year. Before riding the bus, Eichelberger recalls that he logged as much as 20,000 to 30,000 miles per year on two vehicles.

According to the Beaumont man, the bus passes right in front of his driveway at 6:48 a.m. every day—perfect timing for the drive to his 7:30 a.m. job. He leaves work at about 4:35 p.m., arriving home before 5 p.m. By a car route, Eichelberger's home is about four miles from the Main Office.

Kay Kirkland, purchasing agent, says she has carpooled since 1974 for all except about five months. When she began carpooling, Ms. Kirkland lived in Beaumont's West End and carpooled mainly to offset the cost of parking a vehicle downtown.

Now she lives in Lumberton—about a 36-mile round trip from home to office—and car pools both to save money and to relieve the boredom of a long drive. Until recently, Ms. Kirkland carpooled



Kirkland, Beaumont: Carpooling relieves the boredom of a long drive.

with three other Beaumont employees—Marilyn McGraw, Opal Rodine and Karen Stanley. She had to switch after her work schedule changed, requiring her to report to work earlier than the other three women. Now she shares a ride with purchasing co-worker Wesley Simpson, who lives in Silsbee.

In the Lake Charles Division, 15-year employee Loretta Gilbert of Jennings has ridden her bicycle back and forth to work "on nice days" for about the past three years.

"I do it because I like it," she explains. Mrs. Gilbert lives 1.1 miles from the Jennings office. She says she also rides her bike to a nearby shopping center sometimes and reports that her husband, Daniel, also occasionally rides his bicycle to his job about four blocks from their home.



Gilbert, Jennings: Rides her bicycle to work in the spring and autumn.

Mrs. Gilbert is a senior clerk in customer accounting.

Another Lake Charles Division employee who has taken energy-saving measures is Billy Doucet, meter reader. The Lake Charles man now drives a Honda Express the five miles to the office.

Owner of the small motorcycle for about five months, Doucet told Plain Talks Correspondent Anna Raymond that he gets 80 miles to the gallon, while his car only got about 10 miles to the gallon.

Doucet uses the Honda only for transportation to and from the office, but continues to use a company vehicle on his meter reading route.



Billy Doucet, Lake Charles meter reader, reports that his Honda Express gets 80 miles to the gallon.

Among the carpoolers in Lake Charles are Marie Prejean and Yvonne Thompson, both of accounting, and Buddy Johnson and F. M. Jones, both of consumer services.

In Baton Rouge, Hazel McAn-

drew, a 24-year veteran with the company, says she has been carpooling for the past two months with fellow Gulf Staters Jill Street and Ginger Crayton.

Ms. McAndrew says she recently moved into the other two women's neighborhood from "way out." Before moving to Baton Rouge, she notes, she was unable to find anybody to share a ride with.

"Jill comes by every morning



A number of downtown Beaumont employees ride city buses to work.

and has coffee with me while we wait for our ride," she comments, adding, "It makes carpooling a lot of fun."

And, Ms. McAndrew notes, "I can tell a big difference (in her gas bill) already." The group alternates driving by weeks.

Ms. McAndrew is a customer contact clerk who handles equal pay and letters of guarantee for commercial customers.

Retirement finds Sammie Bono 'working harder than ever,' wife says

As a service supervisor and Lake Charles city councilman, Sammie Bono rarely had a spare moment during his working days at Gulf States.

But since his June 1st retirement ended his almost-46-year career with the company, the stocky, cheerful Bono now can be found "working harder than ever," his wife, Dot, reports.

A city councilman for the past 12 years, Bono's current term expires in 1982. With about 19,000 constituents in his district, the 65-year-old politician finds much of his time spent dealing with issues like drainage, sewerage, street improvements and employee salaries.

Now he is also repainting and improving his home—a project that Mrs. Bono concedes has him "working harder now than ever."

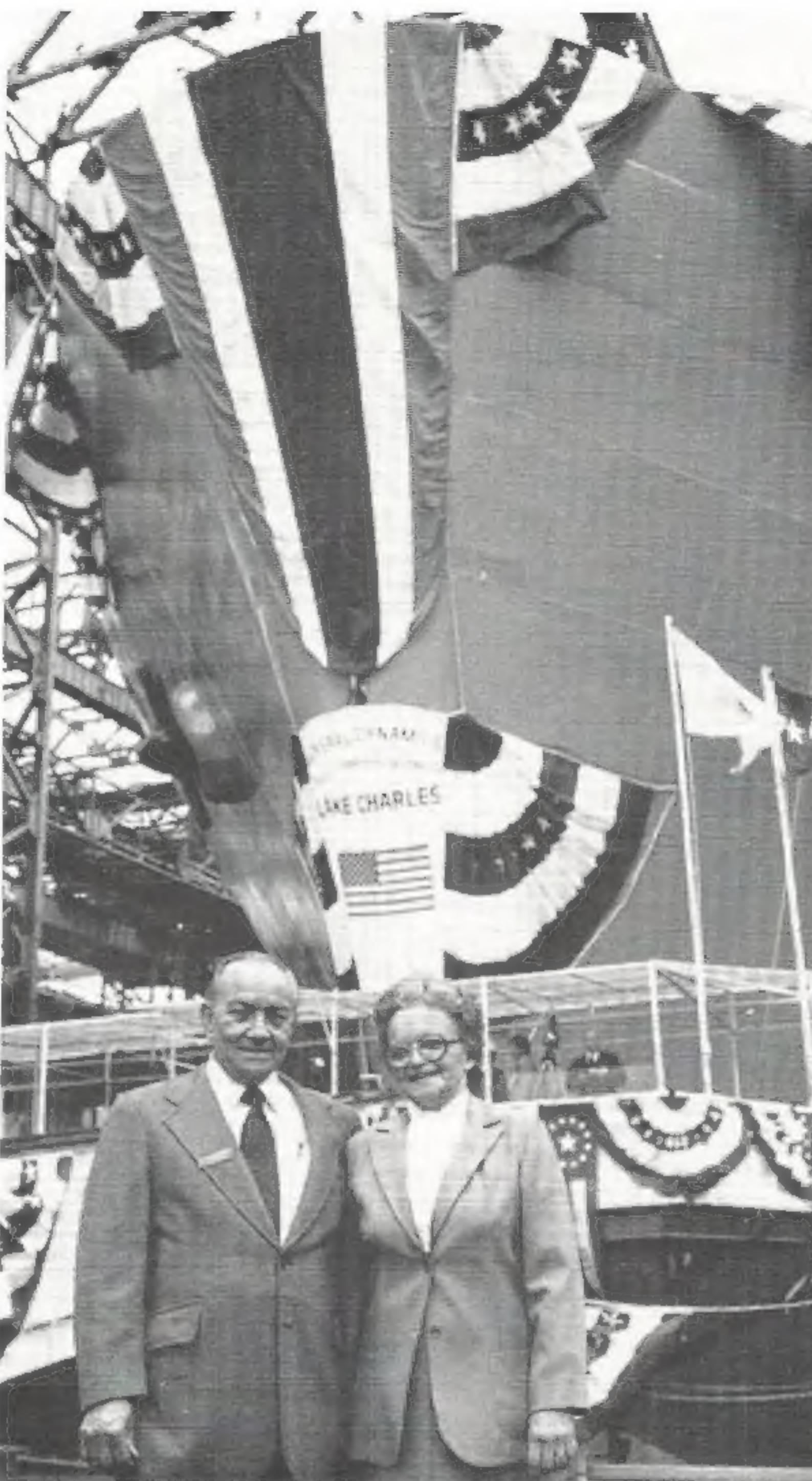
Regardless of what he's working on, Bono never seems to be without his sense of humor.

For instance, he recalls that his first GSU position was that of a "separator." Although that title probably never appeared as an official GSU job description, Bono insists that is what he was because his job required digging holes for utility poles—work that ultimately "separated the men from the kids."

Actually, Bono started out as a helper in the line department in early 1935. While still in high school, in 1930, he had begun five years of work for an ice company acquired by Gulf States.

Bono's final position was that of service supervisor, when his main task was "to see that the customer was taken care of." He directed the work of a foreman, a dispatcher and servicemen. Along with the title went heavy responsibilities. "I was on call 24 hours a day," he notes.

If work around the Bono home ever slows down, the couple plans



Sammie and Dot Bono are dwarfed by the 936-foot-long vessel, the *Lake Charles*.

to travel some. Just before his June 1st retirement, in mid-April, the Bonos flew to Quincy, Massachusetts, for a brief vacation to attend christening ceremonies for a new ship dubbed the *Lake Charles*. Bono and his wife were invited to the ceremony at the invitation of the shipbuilding firm's chairman of the board and his wife. (The *Lake Charles* is the first of two identical liquefied natural gas tankers built by the firm General Dynamics that will transport the gas from a Lake Charles, Louisiana, LNG plant.) Also attending the ceremony were two members of the Lake Charles Dock Board.

According to Bono, a few years ago, he was the only local official to show up at a Baton Rouge christening ceremony for a tugboat, also named the *Lake Charles*. Shirley O'Shields, the wife of General Dynamics Board Chairman Richard L. O'Shields attended that event, too, despite cold, rainy weather. "She appreciated my showing up," Bono says, explaining why the O'Shields extended a personal invitation to him to attend the latest christening.

During the Massachusetts' christening, Bono presented the O'Shields with keys to the city of Lake Charles and named them honorary citizens. O'Shields, he recalls, joked that it was the first time he had received anything from a politician "who didn't expect anything in return."

Although the company picked up the tab for their accommodations, Bono insisted on paying for his own transportation.

Now the Bonos are looking forward to attending the christening of *The Louisiana*, sister ship to the \$1.45 million *Lake Charles*.

The couple has two children, Eileen Bono Meachum and Ken Bono, and four grandchildren.

Western Division telephone center represents effort to give better customer service

Locating five women in a small, windowless office may not sound like the best way to improve customer service, but that's just what happened in the Western Division in the summer of 1979.

And Barbara Welch, section head of the year-old Customer Service Telephone Center, reports that establishment of the new center has enabled the division to improve its relations with customers who have complaints or questions.

Not only that, but the five co-workers who report to Mrs. Welch have developed into "a real close operation...They're all friends now and it (the center concept) really seems to be working!" she exclaims.

The center is staffed by four women on telephones—Karla Fowler, Cathy Crooks, Mollie Weber and Linda Dickerson—as well as one woman, Kaletta Thompson, on the switchboard.

Their main responsibility is "to take customer service calls all day long."

Although all division, district and local offices have clerks who take telephone calls and answer customers' questions, only Baton Rouge and Conroe have designated clerks who spend most of their time on the telephone.

"We have our own line, so we're able to give the customer better service by being able to answer their calls sooner," Mrs. Welch explains.

But the job obviously requires more expertise than the ability to carry on a telephone conversation.

Although equipment for the center came in piecemeal throughout the year, the women were ultimately provided with computer terminals which can be used to call up information



Linda Dickerson listens as a customer explains a problem.

about electric service to various residences.

In addition, each employee is trained to answer questions that could involve practically any department of Gulf States.

"They rarely have to transfer a customer to another department for help in answering their question," says Mrs. Welch.

While Mrs. Welch notes that she had never seen another telephone center in operation until July, 1980, when she visited the Baton Rouge Division's 16-person center, she concedes that her earlier 10-year experience in Customer Accounting helped her set up the center last year.

Mrs. Welch recalls that she joined Gulf States as a clerk in Customer Accounting, progressed to senior clerk, then was named section head of the telephone center at its inception in 1979. As a result, she is familiar with many of the types of calls that confused or disgruntled customers may make to Customer Accounting clerks.

Unlike other Customer Accounting clerks, the telephone center staffers are not required to process bills and perform similar duties, although the team does

help out during slack periods, Mrs. Welch says.

The center staffers also work closely with other departments, including Consumer Services and the Meter Department.

Not too long ago, the women each spent a day with a consumer services representative to see how they deal with customers. The training experience gave them some insight into problem areas, as well as providing some answers to such problems, Mrs. Welch says.

Joel Jeffcote, superintendent-Western Division accounting, reportedly suggested establishing the Conroe center.

Not only have customers seemed pleased with the way the center handles their questions, the center staffers themselves have expressed satisfaction with their still fairly new jobs.

"We're real excited about the center," says Mrs. Welch. "We celebrate everything. We have a tree in here that we decorate for Christmas, Valentine's. Just about anything!"

One of the best celebrations, she says, took place in mid-summer when the group celebrated their first "birthday."

'Hobby grows into monster,' says Baton Rouge nurseryman

by Susan Gilley

Al Lusk likes the color green, and his five-acre lot on the outskirts of Baton Rouge has plenty of it.

Lusk owns and operates Al's Nursery, a family business that supplements his retirement income from Gulf States. A 42-year veteran of the company, Lusk retired early this spring from his position as mechanical maintenance supervisor at Louisiana Station.

During the early summer drought, Lusk reveals that his monthly water bill topped \$100—an example of how "what was going to be a sideline hobby has grown into a monster," he says.

Lusk and his wife, Laura, began experimenting with growing plants in the 1960s after a successful attempt to sell cut flowers for All Saints Day.

Not one to mull an idea long, Lusk and his wife simply plunged into the nursery business. "When the truck with the seeds came in, we didn't know beans about plants," recalls Mrs. Lusk.

Even so, Lusk admits, "I've had one foot in electricity and one foot in agriculture from the day I was born." The son of an employee of the old Baton Rouge Electric Company, Lusk studied agriculture at Louisiana State University for a time. One of his daughters, Anna Livy Tucker, is married to a Baton Rouge farmer.

Lusk's earlier agricultural experience was mainly in the field of animal husbandry. At one time, he was among the largest rabbit growers in the Gulf Coast area. An unusually hot summer put him out of that business when he found himself "throwing away 25 to 30 rabbits a day that had died from the heat," he notes.



Mrs. Lusk measures seeds.



Lusk inspects one of his plants after a thundershower.



The Lusks use a golf cart to check outdoor plants on their five-acre lot.



Lusk says he took to heart the advice of a veteran Baton Rouge nurseryman, who had urged him to keep his nursery small enough for a family to handle.

The couple's other daughter, Laura Marie Schatzle, has worked with them for about nine years, while her son, 20-year-old John David Schatzle, has helped out since he was 10. Young Schatzle continues to work, even though an accident has left him visually handicapped. Also involved in the business is the Lusks' son, Steve, who has worked with them for about four years.

Lusk believes that his dual career as GSU supervisor and parttime nurseryman paid off in an unexpected way.

"It was very, very good for me. I learned here (at the nursery) and I learned at Gulf States. I learned how to be a shrewder buyer, and that helped both Gulf States and Al's Nursery," he says.

Lusk, who describes the summer months as a "slack" time at a nursery, lists fishing at Grand Isle and vacationing along the Gulf Coast at his favorite pastimes.

The couple, who celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary on August 11, especially enjoys getting away to the beach for "a week or two with no phone calls," Mrs. Lusk adds.

Retirement finds Lusk just about as busy as he was in 1938, when he went to work for Gulf States as a 50-cents-an-hour mechanic's helper. In addition to his nursery activities, he serves as an usher at St. Alphonse's Catholic Church and belongs to the Knights of Columbus, the Louisiana Association of Nurserymen and the United Commercial Travelers.

Divisions hold service award banquets – employees honored for 10, 20, 30, 40 years of service



From left to right: John Conley, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Boring.



Front row, left to right: Gilbert Lauter, Leeal Hall and Bill Linnehan. Back row, left to right: Dalton Whitmire, Ernest Singletary, R.A. Landry, Amos Stafford and John Conley.



Front row, left to right: Billy Okervall, Wanda Phifer, Marilyn Key, David Martin, Tommy White and John Conley. Back row, left to right: Joel Jeffcote, Otis Boles, Ronald Howell and Richard Myers.

Western Division

Lake Charles Division



Mr. and Mrs.
Rolland Broussard



Mr. and Mrs. James
Broussard



Mr. and Mrs.
Lyndred
Montgomery



Mr. and Mrs.
Wallace Bertrand



Mr. and Mrs.
Donivan McCoy



Mr. and Mrs. Henry
Legnon



Front row, left to right: Bill Richard, Tite Baudoin, Isaac Brown, Jo Ann Burnett, Wayne Fails, Darrell Goodwin, Theodore Matte, Harry Stelly and Russell Thomassee. Back row, left to right: Virgil Fuselier, William Atwell, Thomas Arahie, Fred Doucet, Weldon Hoffpauir, Harold Ney, Milton Pharr and Derrick Smith.



Front row, left to right: Bill Richard, David Trosclair, Glen Foy, Ralph Dykes, Van Bushnell, Martha Caldwell and William Atwell. Back row, left to right: Frank Rozas, Earl Blackwelder, Glynn Beck, Melvin Clark and Bobby Guidry.

Port Arthur Division



Mr. and Mrs. Carl H. Beaumont



Louis P. Allen and Rufus J. Mier



From left to right: Robert Sellars, E. J. Badeaux, O. V. McNeil, H.L. Craig, W.D. Parker and Lee Terro.



From left to right: Delbert Zimmerly, Linda Judice, Judy Waldrep, Paul Wahl and Richard Guyote.

Beaumont Division



Beaumont 40 year club

From left to right: Mr. and Mrs. Harry Leicht, Mr. and Mrs. Preston Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kirkland, Mr. and Mrs. J.S. Rougeau and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Priest.



Beaumont 20 year club

From left to right: Floyd Crow, Gene Russell, Harold Sanco, Mickey Bridges and Van Kitchens Jr.



Beaumont 30 year club

From left to right: James Rhone, Billy Toups, Thomas Mitcham, Ernest Baumgartner, Lewis Guthrie, Jay Roy Peckham, J.R. Wheeler, Ernest Gammage and Brooks Bishop.



Beaumont 10 year club

From left to right: Dempsey Franklin, Joe Budd, Lawrence E. Clark, Jon Curless, Joseph Delahoussaye, Clovis Dumesnil, Patricia Carter, Ervin Berger and Robert L. Glach.



Beaumont 30 year club

From left to right: Charles Glass, Ed Hodges, Jack Follmer, Homer Shawver, Bob Summers, Ray Thompson, Harold Doyle, Aubrey Sprawls, Gerald Dean, Wilson Bryant, Jim Stelly and John Jackson.



Beaumont 10 year club

From left to right: John Hamby Jr., Paul Grimes, Les Jones, Rupert Ellis, Glynn Lang, Earlester Sells, Dorothy Lloyd and Norman Joseph.

Baton Rouge Division



Beaumont 10 year club

From left to right: Jan Schneider, Ellis Sherrick, Raymond Pascual Jr., Howard Williams and Wesley Simpson.



Baton Rouge 40 year club

From left to right: Mr. and Mrs. Earl Julian and Calvin Hebert.



Baton Rouge 30 year club

Front row, left to right: Robert Reid, Lon Sandifer, Corbin Gautreaux, Bobby Giroir and Calvin Hebert. Back row, left to right: Johnnie Penn, Jeri Cabaniss, Z.B. Jackson, Fred Eubanks and Coley Hill.



Baton Rouge 20 year club

Front row, left to right: Walt Wright, Dora Landaiche, Cart Varnado and Calvin Hebert. Back row, left to right: Ray Jarreau, Huey Stafford, Wayne Hiter, D.L. Starns and Hawthorne Knighten.



Baton Rouge 10 year club

Front row, left to right: Glenda Boyd, Janice Wynn, Debra Landry, Lorraine King, Linda Nelson, Jenny Buhler and Calvin Hebert. Back row, left to right: Rick Moore, George Davis, Joe Reine, Bobby Hebert, Ronald Hunt, Gary Lee, Jim Griscom, Phillip Thibodeaux, Skip Russell and Gene Fuselier.



Baton Rouge 10 year club

Front row, left to right: Rick Moore, Cleo Leday, Charley McGhee, Clinton Gibson and Calvin Hebert. Back row, left to right: Carl Jarrell, David Coates and Joseph Rose.

GSU offers employees 'something extra' for education

Just about everybody considers a good education one of the best investments that can be made, and Gulf States offers three programs that help employees and, in some cases, their families finance such an education.

Available is a scholarship program, designed to benefit qualified dependent children of deceased or permanently and totally disabled employees; a financial aid to education program that pays 75 percent of educational costs of fulltime, regular employees; and a matching gifts program that enables employees to double their contributions to the accredited institutions of their choice.

The scholarship program provides a \$1,000 scholarship award per academic year for up to four years to students who participate in the program. The students receive the award in six payments, three during the fall semester totaling \$500 and three during the spring semester, also totaling \$500. The first payment is for \$300 and is given to the students at the beginning of the semester. The second and third payments are for \$100 each and are paid during the following two months of the semester.

Children of deceased or totally disabled employees interested in the program may obtain scholarship applications from the benefits section of Human Resources. The completed applications are returned by the students along with a copy of their most recent high school or college transcript to the manager of the department

in which the employee once worked. The manager then routes it to Molly Field, employee benefits representative and secretary for the College Scholarship Program Committee for approval. The committee is composed of all division vice presidents and Bill Douglas, general manager-personnel services. The committee acts upon the request and informs the committee secretary of its decision. The secretary then notifies the manager who in turn informs the applicant. This proc-

ess is repeated each semester.

At the end of the semester all participants are required to show proof of passing grades in order to receive payments the next semester. Students with poor grade point averages may be discontinued from the program, but may regain their eligibility by improving their grades. Besides aptitude and scholastic standing, applicants are considered on the basis of their financial need and other individual factors.

Meet your correspondent: Rose Reeves of Port Arthur

For someone who's worked for a police department and done a little "bird ranching," a stenographer's duties might seem pretty tame in comparison.

But Rose Reeves, a senior stenographer to the Port Arthur Division accounting superintendent, says she enjoys her present work "immensely," even though she has dabbled in the other two professions.

Mrs. Reeves has served as a Plain Talks correspondent for the past year. Hired in May, 1977, as a stenographer to the division's operating superintendent, she transferred to division accounting in October, 1978, and was promoted to her present classification earlier this year.

Before coming to Gulf States, she worked for the Beaumont Police Department's identification section, where her job duties included fingerprinting and interviewing prisoners. "The job was very exciting," she admits.

Married to David Reeves for 10½ years, Mrs. Reeves followed her husband, who is now a police officer in Groves, to military posts in Leesville, Louisiana, and Colorado Springs, Colorado, during his Army career.

"I loved Leesville!" exclaims Mrs. Reeves, adding, "We lived



about 30 miles from Fort Polk in the middle of the woods with water surrounding us on three sides." The location was ideal for the Reeveses, who enjoyed the fishing.

They also began raising ducks, chickens, quail, chuckers, rabbits and dogs. "Many of the birds we hatched ourselves in incubators," she recalls. When the couple transferred to Colorado, they became involved with a base "bird ranch" that specialized in pheasants.

The couple has a six-year-old son, David Jr., who will begin first grade this fall.

Mrs. Reeves and three of her co-workers belong to the Women's Classic Bowling League. She serves as vice president of the group.

The Port Arthur correspondent urges GSU employees and retirees to contact her about story and picture ideas for the monthly publication. Unusual hobbies and employee and family achievements often turn into interesting articles, she notes.

Program introduces youths to energy conservation and job opportunities

About 850 Golden Triangle youths are approaching the end of a 3½ month summer work program that combined part-time employment with classroom instruction on future job opportunities.

GSU played an important role in that program—the Summer Youth Employment Program funded through the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA)—by preparing several classroom units on energy conservation and on what careers are available in the field of energy.

According to Ed Kasper, coordinator-educational services, the 12 hours of GSU instruction focused on maintaining comfortable lifestyles by practicing energy conservation and offering information about energy-related jobs in the Gulf States' service area.

"The focus of the training was on home energy conservation through low-cost and no-cost measures. Careers in energy were covered as a spin-off of the program," explains Kasper. All the training was provided to the teachers, enabling them to incorporate the suggested curriculum into their classroom efforts. The outline Gulf States provided began with an overview of the energy situation, followed with a session on meter reading and appliance energy use, a home audit overview and a final session on energy careers.

Consumer Services personnel from the participating divisions were an integral part of the training program for the teachers. During the training sessions, Carol Morris, Beaumont consumer services representative, presented the teachers with an overview of the current energy situation, comparing how slowly present energy sources (such as oil and natural gas) are manufactured with how quickly man depletes

such resources.

Kathy Reed, Port Arthur consumer services representative, informed the teachers about low-cost and no-cost retrofit measures. The teachers learned simple methods for controlling drafts and reducing energy consumption for household appliances. They also learned how to save on water heating bills and how to use the sun and wind effectively.



Bill Dixon (left) curriculum director for the Program for Human Services, discusses GSU's role in the Summer Youth Employment Program with Ed Kasper, coordinator-educational services for Gulf States.

During the summer program, the teachers, utilizing the material supplied by Gulf States, presented the same information to their students. After learning about the energy situation, the youths conducted audits of their homes, then reviewed the results in class to learn how to correct any deficiencies they may have found. The students also toured several Gulf States' facilities and the offices of other energy-related companies in an effort to better understand some of the classroom concepts. The field trips also gave them an opportunity to see first-

hand what types of careers are available in the energy field, Kasper notes.

According to Kasper, the project is seen as an important step in Gulf States' low income initiatives. He explains, "It is one of a group of projects that not only eases the tension between GSU and its low-income customers, but also helps those customers to actually reduce the bill they pay us, or reduce their need to request federal assistance to make those payments."

Youths ages 14 to 21 who met certain economic guidelines were eligible to participate in the program, which ran from mid-May until the end of August. The work-study experience was administered by the Program for Human Services, a public, non-profit agency in Orange that serves Orange, Jefferson and Hardin counties.

Participants applied through the Texas Employment Commission, which identified those who were economically disadvantaged, then referred them to the program.

Federal funding for the three-county summer program totaled \$907,727, with 75 percent of that amount earmarked for minimum wage salaries. (Additional funds were available through The Fair Corporation and the YMCA).

Youths put in as much as 24 hours a week (the maximum allowed for those 16 and older) at their jobs and attended a four-hour class one day each week. A regular classroom teacher and an assistant presided over each class of 30 to 35 youngsters, with two teaching teams in Beaumont, one in Hardin County, one in Port Arthur and one in Orange.

"Most jobs were with school districts and parks and recreation facilities and agencies," says Kasper.



Foreman's daughter weds in Conroe ceremony

Sheryl Stabler, the daughter of Conroe employee Hardy Stabler, became the wife of Stanley Hunt on May 31 in St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Conroe.

Her father is a utility foreman in the meter department.



Lege receives football scholarship to McNeese

Neal Lege, the son of Lafayette serviceman Garland Lege, recently received a football scholarship to McNeese State University in Lake Charles.

Neal graduated from Acadiana High School in May.

Sideliners Club in Port Arthur holds beach outing

Word is out that there's a group of Port Arthur GSUer's who don't work—they just go to meetings once a month, plan outings, elect officers and have fun, reports Plain Talks Correspondent Rose Reeves.

The rumors revolve around the members of Port Arthur's retiree group, the Sideliners Club, which recently elected Rosemary Vaught as club president.

The group, which was organized July 17, 1979, held several outings during its first year of business, says Mrs. Reeves.

Other new officers are Margaret (Mrs. Fred) Parent, vice president; Arsey Borne, treasurer; Myrtle (Mrs. J.J.) Boutte, membership and attendance chairman; and Barbara Broussard, senior stenographer in Consumer Services who assists the club.

Most recently, the group held a picnic at the Crystal Beach home of Evelyn (Mrs. F.F. "Buck") Elkins.

Shown in the picture are (front row, kneeling or leaning) Gordon Vaught, J.J. Boutte and Mrs. Parent and (back row, left to right) V.V. McGee, Justine McGee, Vera (Mrs. Frank) Peveto, Ferna (Mrs. C.G.) DeCuir, C.E. Boyd, Mrs. Boutte, Mrs. Elkins, Rex Vaughn, Rosemary Vaught, Arsey Borne and Ida Borne.



Denham Springs employee's daughter wins beauty title

Ronnie Causey, the 11-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Causey of Denham Springs, was recently named the winner in the 1980 Preteen Louisiana Hemisphere Contest in Baton Rouge.

Her father is a lineman-first class in Denham Springs.

A student at Southside Junior High School, Ronnie will represent Louisiana in the national contest to be held in Cherry Hill, N.J., August 16-24.

GSUer's daughter eyes '84 Olympics as diving champ

Despite the boycott of the 1980 Olympic Games, one youthful Beaumont diving champion is setting her sights on the 1984 edition of athletic events.

Janie Serwan, the 17-year-old daughter of GSU vice president Ed Serwan, plans to move to Mission Viejo, California, sometime this year to begin studying under nationally-renowned diving coach Ron O'Brien.

She is presently training under the instruction of her mother, Jean Serwan.

Miss Serwan, who moved to Beaumont after graduating from Blair Academy in New Jersey, won the gold medal in the National Junior Olympics in 1978, competed in the U.S. Nationals four times and was named All-America three times.

A native of Baton Rouge, she competed and won her first meet at age 8. Before leaving the South for New Jersey, she won five state titles and became one of the youngest ever to qualify for the U.S. Senior Nationals.

The Beaumont Sunday Enterprise-Journal recently quoted Miss Serwan as saying, "I have worked long and hard and now the Olympics is at the top of my priorities."

Lake Charles employees honor Anderson upon retirement

Lake Charles employees honored retiring co-worker Velma G. "Elaine" Anderson with a party in a steak house.

Mrs. Anderson, customer accounting clerk, retired June 1, ending a 31-year career with the company.



She said she was looking forward to having more time to spend with her mother, daughter and granddaughter, as well as doing more cooking.

Serviceman retires in Lake Charles

John A. "Al" Trouille, who retired March 1, was honored by his former co-workers with a barbecue dinner recently. A serviceman in Lake Charles when he retired, Trouille joined the company on February 14, 1951, as a helper in the T & D Line Department.

Trouille is shown at the left, receiving congratulations from Howard Mack, operating superintendent.



Port Arthur employee grows giant cantaloupe despite area drought

Delbert Zimmerly, operating superintendent at the Port Arthur service center, harvested a huge cantaloupe in July, despite a drought.

From end to end, the fruit measured two feet and two inches, while its circumference was one foot and 11 inches.



Lewis Creek employees celebrate safety record with shrimp boil

Lewis Creek employees have done it again.

Employees at the company's power plant near Willis, Texas, managed to win the power plant safety competition for the second year in a row. To celebrate, they held a shrimp boil at the Lewis Creek pavilion on July 9, reports Plain Talks Correspondent D.W. Rutherford.

ON THE MOVE

Bailey, Joe A., formerly of Huntsville, to superintendent-Calvert, Division Operations.

Bennefield, Charles D., Beaumont, to utility worker I, T&D Dept., Garage.

Bergeron, Rodney J., Jr., Baton Rouge, to construction worker, Gas Dept.

Bourque, Orin K., Baton Rouge, to senior engineering assistant, T&D Dept., Engineering.

Brown, Vicky F., Beaumont, to personnel clerk, Human Resources.

Byrd, Eunice E., Lake Charles, to heavy equipment foreman, T&D Line Dept.

Canella, Frank J., Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept.

Chatlosh, Clifford E., Port Arthur, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Clift, Mark B., Beaumont, to draftsman, Engineering Design.

Cole, Charles E., Jr., Port Arthur, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

Day, Wallace M., Baton Rouge, to serviceman-1st class, T&D Dept.

DeBlanc, Joan L., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, Office Services.

Deka, Marianne C., Beaumont, to stenographer, T&D Dept.

DeWoody, Edgar K., Lake Charles, to service foreman, T&D.

Donellan, Vincent M., Louisiana Station, to turbine engineer, Plant Production.

Doré, Mark G., Beaumont, to draftsman, Engineering Design.

Dotch, Albert A., Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, T&D Dept.

Doucet, Brad P., Conroe, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

Dozier, George W., Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, T&D Dept.

Dunetz, Daniel M., Willow Glen, to equipment operator, Plant Production.

Edmonston, Gary O., Willow Glen, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

Everett, Calvin, Port Arthur, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

Fenner, Edgar, Conroe, to utility foreman, T&D Line Dept.

Ferrari, Peter J., III, Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, T&D Dept.

Fox, Randy D., Beaumont, to utility worker I, T&D Dept.

Fraser, Dennis J., Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-4th class, T&D Dept.

Frazier, Ricky L., Beaumont, to apprentice, T&D Dept.

Frederick, Lloyd J., Lake Charles, to service supervisor, T&D Service.

Freeman, Michael T., Beaumont, to second fireman, Plant Production.

Fryer, Jerry, Conroe, to assistant general line foreman, T&D Line.

Gallagher, Priscilla W., Baton Rouge, to consumer service representative, Division Consumer Services.

Gallet, Kim A., Lafayette, to helper, T&D Dept.

Gauthier, Malcolm A., Baton Rouge, lineman-3rd class, T&D Dept.

Gonzales, Ricky, Orange, to helper, T&D Dept.

Goudeau, Michael W., Willow Glen, to utility worker I, Plant Production.

Guillory, Danny G., Lake Charles to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Hanks, Robin M., Sulphur, to local office clerk, Division Accounting Dept.

Hayes, Regionald L., Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, T&D Dept.

Hebert, Timothy J., Beaumont, to draftsman, Engineering Design.

Hillin, Nester M., Beaumont, to lineman-3rd class, T&D Dept.

Hinze, Billy R., Conroe, to section head, T&D Engineering.

Hoffpauir, Patrick K., Beaumont, to draftsman, Engineering Design.

Holland, Larry G., Beaumont, to helper, T&D Dept.

Holtzclaw, Samuel W., Port Arthur, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Jones, Donald R., Jr., Beaumont, to helper, T&D Dept.

Jones, Michael L., Beaumont, to draftsman, Engineering Design.

Jones, Nancy S., Beaumont, to key punch operator, senior IDS, Operations Services.

Kennedy, Ronald J., Willow Glen, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Knox, Patricia V., Louisiana Station, turbine water plant operator, Plant Production.

Korpke, Thomas H., Conroe, to substation mechanic-1st class, T&D Dept.

Krebs, Michael G., Dayton, to helper, T&D Dept.

Lawson, Gregory K., New Caney, to helper, T&D Dept.

Lee, Michael R., Denham Springs, to helper, T&D Dept.

Leger, Kirk A., Lake Charles, to equipment operator, Plant Production.

Lemoine, Alvin A., Jr., Baton Rouge, to meter reader, Division Accounting Dept.

Magee, J. Michael, Beaumont, to relayman-1st class, T&D Dept.

Maines, James D., Vidor, to line foreman, T&D Line.

Martin, Philip M., Woodville, to lineman-3rd class, T&D Dept.

Matsoukas, Edward B., Orange, to consumer services representative, Division Consumer Services.

Maxwell, Lana J., Beaumont, to stenographer, Fuel Services.

Mayfield, Joseph R., Baton Rouge, to pipeman-1st class, Gas Dept.

McCrosky, Thomas K., Lake Charles, to assistant general line foreman, T&D Dept.

McGhee, J. T., Port Arthur, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

Meekins, Laura M., Lafayette, to clerk, Division Accounting Dept., Customer Accounts.

Melancon, Terry L., Baton Rouge, to lineman 1st class, T&D Dept.

Melancon, Warren D., Jr., Baton Rouge, to utility worker I, Division Accounting Dept., Credit and Collections.

Miller, John T., Baton Rouge, to relayman 1st class, T&D Dept.

Moore, James L., Conroe, to line foreman, T&D Line.

Moreno, Robert, Port Arthur, to building and grounds maintenance man, T&D Dept.

Morgan, Marvin, Baton Rouge, to helper, T&D Dept.

Moritz, Susan Y., formerly of Conroe, to Accounting Services, Beaumont.

Mouton, Dane J., Lake Charles, to communications serviceman-3rd class, T&D Dept.

Neal, Barney H., Conroe, to right-of-way representative, T&D Engineering.

Neves, Roy E., Conroe, to meter reader supervisor, Division Accounting.

Nolen, Gwendolyn T., Port Arthur, to departmental clerk, T&D Substation.

Nunez, David W., Beaumont, to draftsman, Engineering Design.

Papineau, Earl R., Willow Glen, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Peercy, Linda N., Navasota, to local office clerk, Division Accounting.

Portier, Robert J., Louisiana Station, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

Poulard, Michael J., Beaumont, to draftsman, Engineering Design.

Pursley, Ronald K., Dayton, to helper, T&D Dept.

Rabalais, Carl P., Beaumont, to senior draftsman, Engineering Design.

Rabalais, Morris J., Willow Glen, to control operations foreman, Plant Production.

Redmon, Deborah C., Beaumont, to engineering assistant, Transmission Planning.

Reeves, Rose N., Port Arthur, to stenographer-senior, Division Accounting Dept.

Richardson, Gale, Beaumont, to engineering helper, T&D Dept.

Riggs, Gloria D., Beaumont, to departmental clerk, Real Estate.

Riles, Elaine, Beaumont, to clerk, Materials Management.

Ripoll, Michael H., Beaumont, to engineering assistant, Engineering Design.

Robichau, Gary G., Beaumont, to engineering assistant, T&D Dept.

Rose, Joseph, Jr., Baton Rouge, to serviceman-3rd class, T&D Dept.

Samuel, Eugene, Beaumont, to utility worker I, Office Services, Mail Services.

Saunders, Raymond L., Orange, to helper, T&D Dept.

Seaman, Linda M., Beaumont, to clerk, Accounting Services.

Singletary, Ernest L., formerly of Navasota, to superintendent-Madisonville, Division Operations.

Spence, John W., Beaumont, to communications serviceman-1st class, T&D Dept.

Stewart, Peggy M., Willow Glen, to departmental clerk, Plant Production.

Tanner, Cecil W., Louisiana Station, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

Thibodeaux, Darrell J., Beaumont, to engineering assistant, Engineering Design.

Thompson, Melodie L., Beaumont, to stenographer-executive, Beaumont Varibus Operations.

Tomberlin, Rachel B., Beaumont, to clerk, Division Accounting Dept., Customer Accounts.

Turner, Johnnie W., Baton Rouge to garage mechanic-2nd class, T&D Dept.

Vice, Rickey E., Louisiana Station, to operator's helper, Plant Production.

Villarreal, Juan E., Conroe, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

Warrick, Lucienne M., Beaumont, to stenographer, Real Estate Department.

Williams, Linda L., Anahuac, to local office clerk, Division Accounting Dept.

Young, Berton, Lake Charles, to line foreman, T&D Line.



SERVICE AWARDS

40
years



Sylvester C. Fugler
Gas Department
Baton Rouge

30
years



Wayne L. Huff Jr.
Louisiana Station
Baton Rouge

20
years



Fedrick Green
Nelson Station
Lake Charles

10
years



Arthur B. Cadena
Sabine Station
Port Arthur



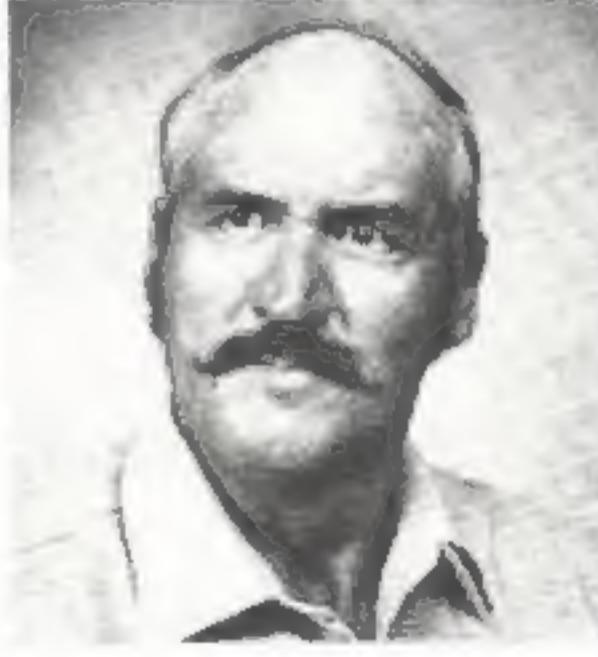
Ruth M. Stahl
I & DS
Beaumont



L.C. McCullar
Electric T & D
Beaumont



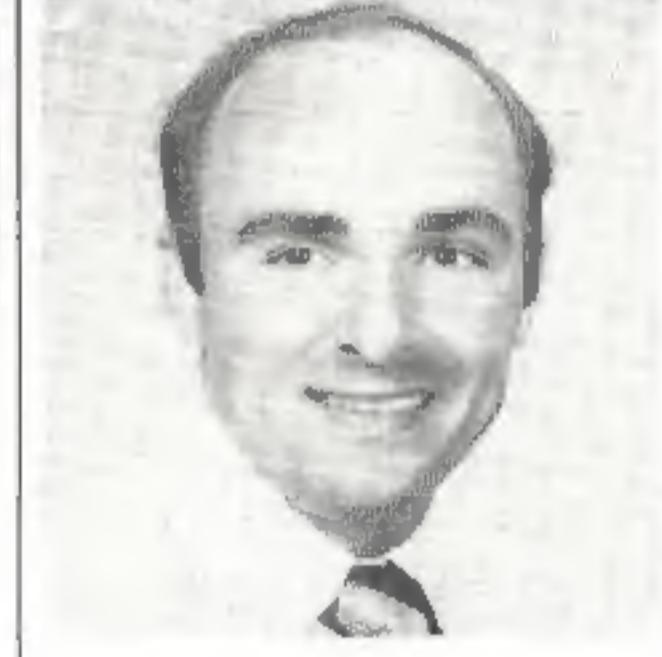
Eldridge L. Mathews
System Production
Beaumont



Alfred D. Hare
Electric T & D
Silsbee



Gary R. Green
Electric T & D
Baton Rouge



Ralph L. Storms
Sabine Station
Port Arthur



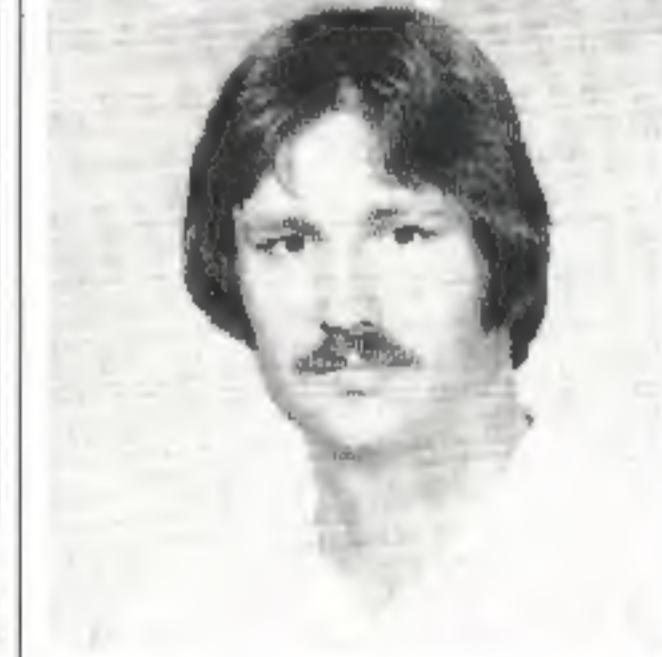
Everett S. Pratt
Nelson Station
Lake Charles



Andrew Williams
Sabine Station
Port Arthur



Kay W. Kirkland
Materials Management
Beaumont



Rodney A. Townsend
Sabine Station
Port Arthur



Albert G. Langlois
Electric T & D
Baton Rouge

EPRI research project focuses on coal 'scrubber'

A \$50 million prototype "scrubber" that removes sulfur dioxide pollution from the stack gases of coal-fired electric power plants and converts it to elemental sulfur is now being built with funding from the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and other agencies.

Most scrubbers now being used by utilities to remove emissions produce a sludge that is of no value and which poses its own environmental problems in disposal. A few systems have been developed to convert stack gases to elemental sulfur, which can be reused, but these systems generally require natural gas.

The new system, which is under construction at the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation's Huntley Steam Station in Tonawanda, New York, will be the first full scale demonstration of a process that recovers sulfur using only coal, a resource which is abundant.

Along with EPRI, the five-year project is sponsored by the Empire State Electric Energy Research Corporation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and Rockwell International.

Soviet dissident urges development of nuclear energy

In a letter written from exile, Soviet dissident scientist Andrei Sakharov urged again that the West develop its nuclear energy resources.

Sakharov's letter appeared in the June 8 edition of The New York Times Magazine and stated:

"One of the causes of the weakening position of the West is its dependence on oil supplies, a 'fatal dependency,' as an American leader has remarked. The geopolitics of the Soviet Union is aimed precisely at this weak point. In these circumstances, the West cannot afford to deprive itself of nuclear energy, which gives room for diplomatic and economic 'maneuvering.' Concern about safety and environmental hazards should have no bearing on the principal issue—to build or not to build nuclear stations—but only on how to build them. The price in terms of polluting the environment are greater from coal and oil than from nuclear energy."

Sakharov, recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, said that Western voters must demand this—plus development of other energy sources and strict conservation—and "not allow demagogues to exploit these problems for their selfish ends."

make long-term commitments to purchase U.S. coal, I'm confident the industry will be able to deliver," says Robert Quenon, chairman of the National Coal Association and head of Peabody Coal Co., the nation's largest producer.

"Our analysts say the coal industry currently is capable of producing well in excess of 100 million more tons of coal than is now being used. Our excess capacity can be brought on line in a relatively short period of time," Quenon says, "while further expansion gets underway."

The industry has been increasing its productive capacity on the average of five percent annually in recent years in anticipation of greater demand. But domestic consumption did not grow as rapidly as expected. Not until 1979, in the wake of doubled oil prices, did both domestic and export demand begin to grow by more than three percent per year.

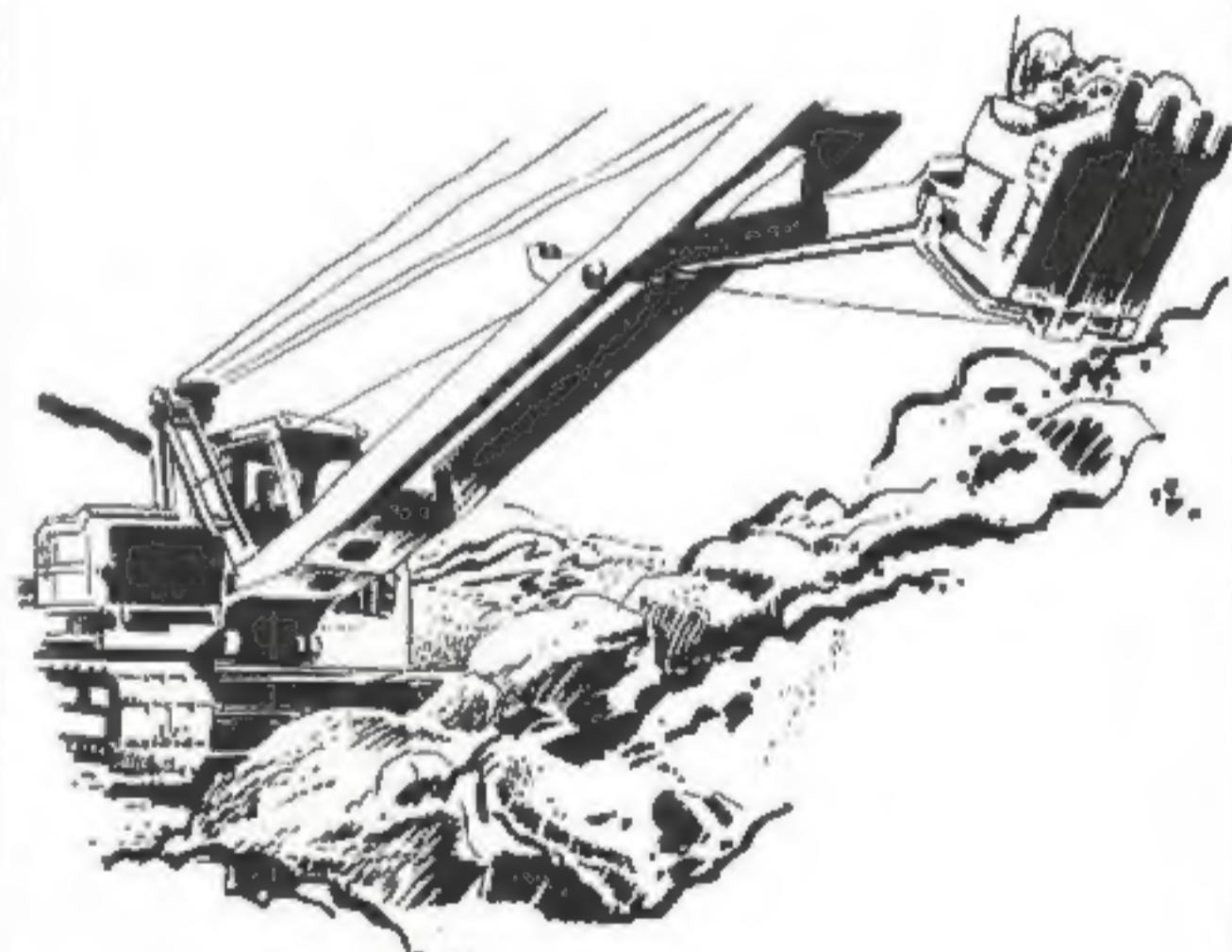
Coal industry leaders predict production increase

Coal industry leaders are optimistic that domestic production can be doubled within the next 10 years, if there is assurance of markets to support the magnitude of required capital investment.

The money is needed for mining facilities and expansion of transportation, ports and storage and handling facilities for the increased production.

President Carter and leaders of six other industrialized countries called for a doubling of coal production and use by 1990 during the economic summit meeting in Venice.

"If foreign buyers are willing to



Gulf Staters confront problems resulting from weather conditions

The weather was more than just a casual conversation piece throughout June and most of July—the sweltering heat that blanketed the Gulf States' service area and most of the rest of the nation during that period preoccupied just about everyone's mind.

Then in August, fickle Hurricane Allen kept everyone guessing for days before it made landfall farther down the Texas coast, affecting the company indirectly but significantly.

Aside from the obvious discomfort we shared from the heat wave, GSU and our neighboring utilities prepared for customer dismay over inevitably higher electric bills, as well as the possibility of loads exceeding the company's generation and transmission capabilities.

(In fact, the company *did* have to resort to brief rolling blackouts on two occasions following combinations of equipment failures on our system and neighboring utilities' systems. Industrial customers were also involved in sharing the curtailment requirements to avoid a total collapse of the system. Baton Rouge also suffered some brief outages as a result of overloaded circuits.)

As the drought dragged on, there were even unforeseen drawbacks, such as brief outages caused by build-ups of salt water and animal waste on power lines that ordinarily would have been washed away by frequent summer showers.

But by the time late July thunderstorms began dissipating the weeks-long drought, Gulf Staters had again braved a near-crisis situation both capably and uncomplainingly.

According to Joe Bondurant, executive vice president-

operations, "GSU employees demonstrated their willingness to pull together and make that important extra effort that has helped the company weather many a 'storm' before."

Although a real storm did not hit the GSU service area, Hurricane Allen threatened both Texas and Louisiana customers as two of Gulf States' prime natural gas suppliers shut down both on-shore and off-shore production to protect personnel and equipment.

Our customers were urged to reduce consumption during the high usage hours the weekend of the storm because of the limited supply of natural gas. The risk in supply of one company, Exxon, continued a few days after the storm as high water and continuing rain hampered the firm's effort to open a natural gas field between Corpus Christi and Brownsville.

While an optimist might have hoped by mid-August that the hottest part of the summer was over, it would certainly have been correct for anyone to say that it had already been about the hottest summer in memory.

For some employees, this summer's freakish behavior had a distinct effect upon their work. This category included:

- The local customer contact clerks who listened to high bill complaints all day from already-irritable customers.
- The system operators who struggled to match power supply to record system loads as customer air conditioners worked to combat the heat.
- The foremen, linemen and servicemen who continued to work outdoors, despite 100-degree-plus heat.
- The power plant employees at

Louisiana Station, Nelson Station, Lewis Creek, Sabine Station, Neches Station, Toledo Bend and Willow Glen who sweated around the clock to keep the fully-loaded units on line.

- The meter readers who continued to drive and walk their rounds.

But credit should be given to all employees who earnestly tried to reduce their home and office energy consumption, and who urged their friends and neighbors to do the same and who, in many cases, put in many hours of overtime.

Production of electricity on a large scale is one of the most basic examples of how people working together through technology have improved our quality of life. And when unusual circumstances threaten to stop the flow of electricity to homes and businesses, then we realize just how important our product has become to everyone.

"Perhaps the fact that electricity is so important to us, the employees, too, plays a small part in our extraordinary readiness to confront such circumstances," Bondurant said.

"But I like to think that a spirit of teamwork prevails among Gulf Staters, and that our get-up-and-go attitude is a big part of the reason behind our company's long history of successful operation," he added.

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

PLAIN TALKS

P. O. Box 2951

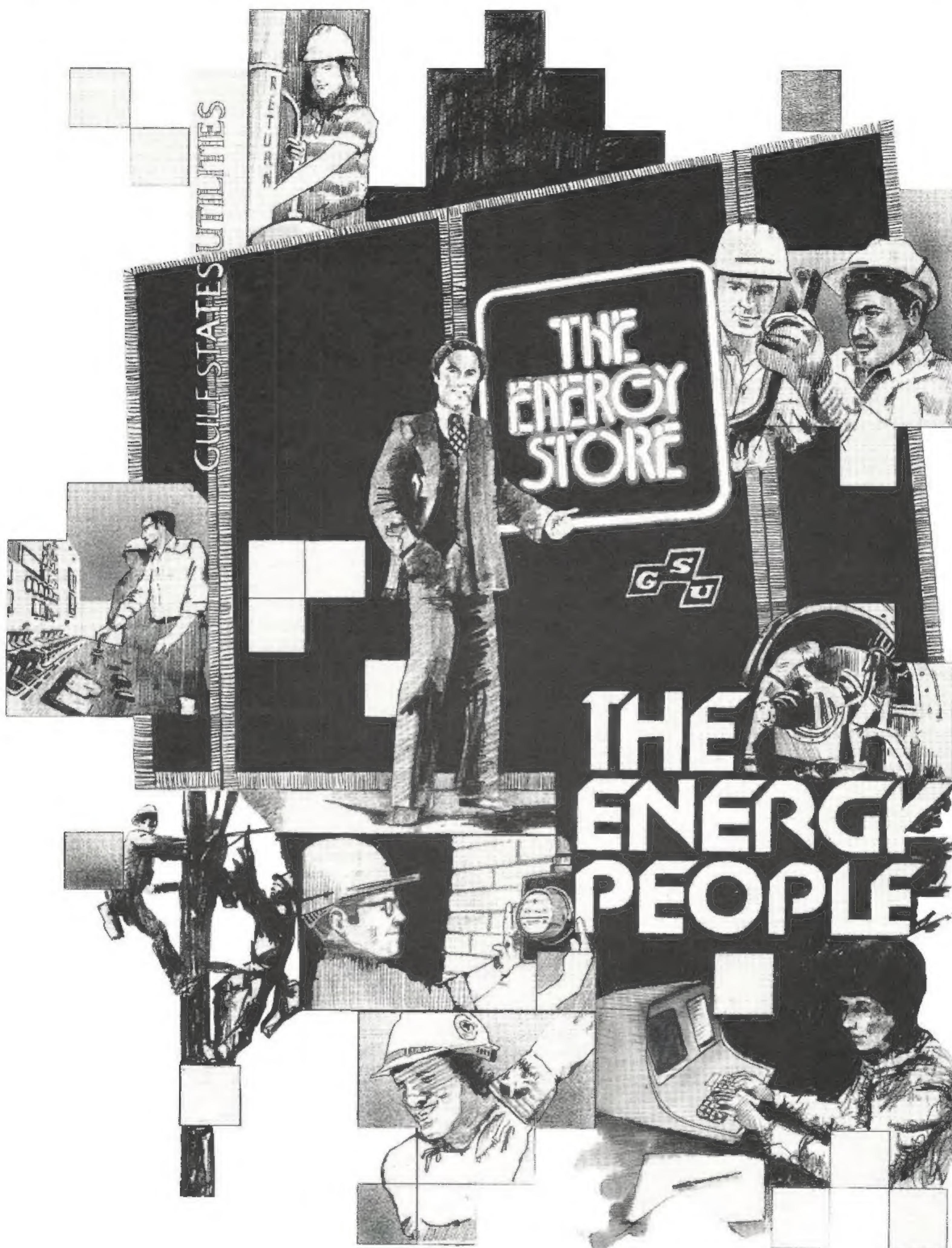
Beaumont, Texas 77704

Bulk Rate

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Beaumont, Texas

Permit No. 11



Fuels like oil and natural gas needed to make electricity at Gulf States Utilities are not limitless. They aren't cheap either. Effective conservation of energy will reduce the amount of natural resources used for electrical energy now being wasted. But we need your help. GSU has an ongoing program to help customers save energy (and money) at home. Visit the GSU Energy Store at Parkdale Mall for more information. The Energy People at GSU work for tomorrow each day.

**THE
ENERGY
PEOPLE**
GULF STATES UTILITIES